It is always difficult to characterize what the Senate thinks about any topic. We have 40 members, representing all parts of the state, roughly 2-1 Democrats to Republicans, and within each caucus a wide range of perspectives.

That said, in crafting the 2009 water package, our members recognized two things.

1. The various policy decisions that would be necessary to 1st craft and then implement a delta plan would benefit greatly from independent advice on what the science said about the issue *du jour*.

2. The legislature was in no position to tell the independent science Board how it should do its job.

I'll expand on this, but first let me make an observation.

No one got elected to the Legislature because they got an A in AP calculus.

We have one PhD geologist, (Sen. Blakeslee), a number of lawyers, the occasional Dentist or MD, and the rest are folks with a wide range of professional background, most with some experience in local government. For example, Sen. Pavley is a former middle school history teacher and was the first mayor of Agoura Hills.

All very bright in their own ways, but only one "scientist."

So, while our members all appreciate the complexity of the problems facing us in the delta, and they all recognize that decisions regarding how to resolve these problems will need to be informed by sound science, they also recognized that they were not the people to tell you how you should do your job.

Instead, they told you that there was a job that needed doing, they created a framework within which you are to do your job, and it is largely up to you to figure out how best to do it.

Frankly, if we wanted to tell you more, we would have put it in the statues.

That isn't to say they don't have questions that science might be able to either answer or provide insights, they just don't know where the questions fit within the hierarchy of questions that *need* to be answered.

Questions I hear raised include:

- Which Delta islands, if any, are so critical to the restoration of the delta that they must be protected at virtually all cost, & conversely, which are the least critical?

- A related question is, when the catastrophic event occurs, what should be the triage rules for disaster response?

- Also, is the likelihood of a catastrophic event so large, that its occurrence over the planning period should be taken as a given and therefore should be an organizing principle around which the Delta Plan should be developed?

- Given climate change and the large number of non-native species in the Delta, what does a "restored" ecosystem look like and how does one create it?

- A related question is, from an ecosystem restoration perspective, is it necessary or desirable to have greater inter and intra annular fluctuations in salinity?

- Seriously, how do with deal with striped bass, methyl mercury, invasive species, subsidence – and what the hell is a copepod?

- Regarding adaptive management, how do we know when we have reached a decision point and how do we know what we have to do different?

- Finally, and perhaps the most commonly raised, is, "so how much water of what quality DO the fish truly need?"

I hope this was helpful and look forward to the discussion